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Illinois
Environmental
Protection Agency

Gov't & Community Affairs
2200 Churchill Road
P.O. Box 19276
Springfield, IL 62794-9276

Fall 1991

# What Do *you* Do?

DEPOSITORY

FEB 27 1992

UNIVERSITY OF ILLINOIS
AT URBANA-CHAMPAIGN

# Response Actions for Petroleum Leaks and Spills from Underground Storage Tanks in Illinois

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# Responding to Petroleum Leaks and Spills

1. **Act on Potential Dangers**
   - Evacuate area
   - Extinguish open flames, do not smoke
   - Do not touch any electrical appliances/equipment due to the possibility of generating sparks
   - Call the local fire department

2. **Report the Leak or Spill to IESDA (Illinois Emergency Services and Disaster Agency)**
   - Report ***all*** underground leaks within 24 hours
   - Immediately report any release of petroleum which leads to a sheen on a surface water
   - Immediately report a spill or leak of 12.5 or more gallons of gasoline

**IESDA 24 HOUR LINE - 800/782-7860**

3. **Find the Source**
   - Pinpoint the leak or spill
   - Check to see if the pumps are working correctly
   - Review tank inventory records for petroleum product losses
   - Test for tank and/or pipe leaks

4. **Stop the Leak or Contain the Spill**
   - Do not wash product into sewer
   - If the leak is in the piping system do not use associated pump
   - For spills or overfills use an absorbent material (such as cat litter or sawdust) to prevent the product from spreading
   - Collect and remove petroleum from the leaking tank to prevent further release into the environment
   - Report these efforts to IESDA

5. **Hire an Environmental Consulting Engineer to Conduct:**
   - preliminary site assessment and investigation
   - proper sampling protocol
   - laboratory arrangements
   - scientific data interpretation
   - hiring of subcontractors
   - soil handling arrangements
   - preparation of mandatory Illinois Environmental Protection Agency (IEPA) reports
   - submittal of application and invoices for reimbursement from the UST fund

NOTE: ***This is a general overview. For answers to your specific questions, please consult the LUST Manual or call IEPA's LUST Section at 217/782-6762.***

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